

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 SCA-01 IO-11 DHA-02 SAB-01

SAM-01 ACDA-07 NEAE-00 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9413

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3012

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJ: PRESS QUESTION ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON

1. PAO WAS ASKED BY REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TODAY ABOUT REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN DISCUSSED WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS YESTERDAY "AN INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR LEBANON ON THE PATTERN OF THE MARSHALL PLAN." PAO REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR REPORT, THERE IS INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SPECIFICALLY IN CONGRESS, IN US PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF LEBANON. TO ILLUSTRATE, PAO READ TO THE CORRESPONDENT FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY YESTERDAY: "I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT RESPOND FAVORABLY AND GENEROUSLY TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S FEBRUARY APPEAL OF \$50 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF PURPOSES IN LEBANON."

2. SHOULD FURTHER QUESTIONS ALONG THIS LINE ARISE PROPOSE TO ANSWER THAT IT IS NORMAL THAT US WOULD BE THINKING OF SUCH PROGRAMS TO BE CARRIED OUT AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ELECTED AND THAT US ASSUMES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ITS CONCERN ABOUT LEBANON'S PLIGHT, WILL RESPOND.

3. BEGIN COMMENT: IT IS INEVITABLE THAT WHAT AMBASSADOR BROWN
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HAS BEEN SAYING IN HIS SECOND ROUND WILL LEAK OUT. DEPARTMENT'S

SPOKESMAN SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER INNOCUOUSLY. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760129-0665
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760494/aaaadcsu.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS QUESTION ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SWEL, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006